

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

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P 262230Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1119

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 5137

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN

SUBJECT: PAN AM SITUATION

REF: GUATEMALA 5127

1. IN VERY STRONG STATEMENT TO PRESS THIS MORNING MINCOMMUNICATIONS ANZUETO STATED HE WAS PREPARED TO CANCEL ALL PANAM OPERATIONS IN GUATEMALA IF PANAM DID NOT IMMEDIATELY CEASE THE "HOSTILE CAMPAIGN" IT WAS CONDUCTING AGAINST GUATEMALA IN HONDURAS, INCLUDING PUBLICATIONS IN PRESS TO EFFECT THAT GUATEMALA IS VIOLATING THE SOVEREIGNTY OF HONDURAS BY DICTATING WHAT FLIGHTS SHOULD AND SHOULD NOT BE MADE TO HONDURAN TERRITORY. MINISTER SAID THAT THIS CAMPAIGN BY PANAM COULD CREATE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS, BUT FORTUNATELY THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN HONDURAS AND GUATEMALA IS GREATER THAN THE "BLACKMAIL" OF PANAM. ANZUETO REPORTEDLY SAID HIS STATEMENT WAS MADE UNDER "INSTRUCTIONS OF PRESIDENT ARANA." HE ADDED THAT THE PRESSURES BEING EXERTED BY PANAM THROUGH THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA WERE NOTHING MORE THAN AN ATTEMPT TO PROTECT PANAM'S SELFISH INTERESTS AGAINST THE SOVEREIGN INTERESTS OF GUATEMALA WHICH WILL BE PROTECTED AT WHATEVER SACRIFICE.

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2. ANZUETO THEN ANNOUNCED THAT ON OCTOBER 28 AVIATECA WILL INITIATE DAILY FLIGHTS TO SAN PEDRO SULA AND TUESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FLIGHTS TO MEXICO.

3. PAN AM CONSULTANT JAY WILSON HAS INFORMED US THAT PANAM IN GUATEMALA INTENDS ISSUE PRESS STATEMENT DENYING THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVE IN HONDURAS IS CONDUCTING ANY CAMPAIGN AGAINST GUATEMALA, POINTING OUT THAT HE HAS MERELY EXPLAINED TO PERSONS THAT HAVE QUESTIONED THE REASONS FOR THE CANCELLATION OF THE GUATEMALA-SAN PEDRO SULA FLIGHT THAT THE GOG HAS DENIED PANAM THE RIGHT TO MAKE THE FLIGHT. THE PRESS STATEMENT, ACCORDING TO WILSON, WILL ALSO SAY THAT IT IS THE HONDURAN PRESS AND NOT PANAM THAT IS CONDUCTING THE "CAMPAIGN."

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO PANAM IS DUE AT LEAST IN PART TO PANAM'S HEAVY-HANDEDNESS IN "THREATENING" ANZUETO WITH CAB ACTION AND TO THE ALLEGED ATTACKS BEING MADE IN HONDURAS. (WE DO NOT HAVE CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT PANAM REPRESENTATIVE IS OR IS NOT SAYING THERE.) OTHER HALF OF COIN IS INFLAMED GUATEMALAN NATIONALISM ON THIS ISSUE AND DESIRE OF AVIATECA TO HAVE EXCLUSIVE FLIGHTS ON GIVEN DAYS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PANAM EXECUTIVE HAD APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN ARENALES IN NEW YORK THIS MORNING, BUT WE DO NOT YET HAVE REPORT FROM PANAM ON RESULTS THIS APPROACH.  
DECONTROL NOV. 1976.  
DREYFUSS

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